

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 19, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 19, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 16, 22, 24-26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nobileau* (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,702). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Additionally, claims 1-6, 8-10 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 22 recites a method that includes "locating at least part of the deformed tubular body below the restricted inner diameter portion within an enlarged inner diameter portion of the wellbore that is relatively larger in diameter than the restricted inner diameter portion." By contrast, *Nobileau* discloses a string of casing placed in a well such that the string of casing spans a length of the well along its smallest inner diameter, which is constant along the string of casing as shown in Figure 14. In other words, the casing string taught in *Nobileau* is placed in a cased section which has already been cemented in place and an open hole section which extends below the cased section, but both these sections have the same most restricted inner diameter within the well.

Therefore, Applicants submit that *Nobileau* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 22. Claim 22 and claims 24-26 and 28 dependent thereon cannot be anticipated by *Nobileau* and are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

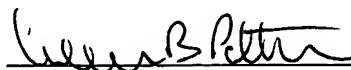
Claims 29-56 are allowed. Applicants acknowledge allowance of the claims. Further, Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 38 and 48 do not change the allowability of these claims.

Claims 17-21, 23 and 27 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have amended claims 17 and 23 to be rewritten in independent form. Furthermore, Applicants submit that all claims dependent on claim 17 are allowable. Applicants additionally submit that claim 27 is allowable based on the traversal presented above regarding claim 22. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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